

New-York Daily Tribune

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1865.

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 No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. If intended for publication, the name and address of the writer must be furnished, and a guarantee for its good faith. All business letters for this office should be addressed to "The Tribune," New-York.
 We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

Gen. Grant has just issued an important order relative to trade with Rebel States. He announces that all permits, by whomsoever granted, to trade within the States of Virginia (save the Eastern Shore), North and South Carolina, and that portion of Georgia bordering on the Atlantic, including Savannah, are suspended until further orders. Supplies of all kinds are also prohibited from passing into any of said States, save such as are absolutely necessary for the wants of those living within our lines.

From an official statement of the results of blockade-running at Wilmington, published in *The Messenger* (Eng.) *Guardian*, we learn that the total captures by English speculators amount to more than \$36,000,000. The quantity of cotton exported from Wilmington in 22 months was 137,367 bales, and the total number of vessels which ran the blockade in 13 months, 367.

Provost-Marshal-General Fry has sent a dispatch to Gov. Fenton in reply to the draft circular of the latter, stating that no delay in the conscription has been authorized, and that none probably will be on any other conditions than those already stated, viz: that if the Boards are fully occupied in the examination of volunteers, there will be no draft so long as such occupation continues.

The district of Georgetown, S. C., now occupied by Admiral Dahlgren, is the richest rice-growing section of the Union, and must have been of great importance to the Rebels. It was also one of the heaviest slave districts, only 2,894 of its people having been whites in 1850, while 17,453 were slaves.

The recent cavalry expedition from Baton Rouge has been heard from. There had been some heavy skirmishing in which our loss was considerably less than that of the Rebels. The roads were horrible.

Information received from Meridian, Miss., is to the effect that the Rebel Gen. Forrest was at Macon, Ga., last month, with 15,000 men—a force he was rapidly adding to and organizing.

Recruiting was not quite so brisk yesterday, probably in consequence of the draft. Several parties appeared and deposited \$1,000 each for substitutes. The market is well supplied at this figure.

The rumor of Wednesday that Peace Commissioners had again reached City Point from Richmond, is discredited by arrivals from the former place. Nothing has been heard of them there.

The Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac was reviewed on Tuesday by Gen. Warren. It is said to be the largest and best disciplined in the army.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The steamship *Africa*, from Liverpool, March 4, via Queenstown, March 5, arrived at Halifax yesterday, with two days later news.

The news of the fall of Charleston has produced quite a sensation in England. The *London Times* says the importance of this event can hardly be exaggerated, and the *London Post* is now of opinion that Sherman ranks among the greatest Generals of the present age. There was an advance in United States bonds of 2 per cent, and a decline of 4 per cent in the Confederate loan. The *Daily News* expects that gold shipments will begin to be made from England to the United States, and that this will be the turning point in the English money market. To allay the widespread fear of a war between England and the United States, the testimony of a member of the English Cabinet is adduced that the declarations from the United States Government are more pacific than for a long time has been the case.

Mr. Layard, in the House of Commons, declared that the Government disapproved the instructions issued by the Confederate Government with regard to the seizure and disposal, by Confederate cruisers, of neutral vessels without adjudication by a prize court, but that it was not consistent with the interest of the public service to state what steps had been taken regarding them.

Senator Foote of Tennessee has arrived in London, and issued an address to the people of Tennessee, advising them "to lose no time in returning to the Federal Union."

The Rebel ram *Stonewall* continued to be watched at Fero by Federal vessels.

The disagreement between the Austrian Government and the Finance Committee of the Reichsrath has not yet been adjusted.

The Brazilian army is besieging Montevideo, and the fall of that city is shortly expected. On the other hand, the army of Paraguay has taken several towns in the Brazilian Province of Mato Grosso.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Nashville and Louisville papers are filled with accounts of the recent frosts in the Tennessee and tributary streams. Nashville was at one time nearly surrounded by water and 200 houses rendered untenable.

Police Commissioner Acton stated before the State Senate Investigating Committee, on Wednesday, that he could name the man who started the riots of July, 1863.

At the Produce Exchange yesterday, flour fell 10 cents; wheat, 2 1/2 cents; and oats 1 cent. Cotton fell to 63, a decline of 3 1/4 cents.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen yesterday afternoon the tax levy, amounting to \$6,860, 012 1/2, was passed.

Prof. H. E. Peck of Oberlin College, Ohio, has been appointed Consul-General to the Republic of Haiti.

The Overland Mail route is now open, and passengers can be transported from St. Louis to Denver. Count Wydenbrake has been presented to the President as Minister resident from Austria.

It is said that President and Mrs. Lincoln will probably visit New-York about the 1st of May next.

There is an extensive inundation at Albany caused by an ice-berg in the Hudson.

Seven Thirties were sold yesterday for the amount of \$4,038,500.

Major-Generals Rosecrans and Meagher are in this city on a brief visit.

The Constitutional Amendment for the Abolition of Slavery was defeated in the New-Jersey Senate yesterday by a vote of 12 to 7. Nobody, we presume, expected anything else.

We publish in another column the telegram from Lieut.-Governor Alford to Governor Fenton on which the announcement of his Ex-

cellency that there would be no draft was based. It certainly seems plain enough, and will inevitably suggest the inquiry why the requisite orders were not issued to the Provost-Marshal of this city to suspend the draft.

A dispatch from Gen. Grant to the War Department gives positive and most cheering news from Gen. Sherman. He had reached Fayetteville without serious opposition, and his army in fine health and spirits. Hardee was in his front but kept at a respectful distance, while he will, doubtless, continue to do so long as he has the power. At Columbia Gen. Sherman destroyed forty-three cannon and the immense arsenal and railroad establishments at that place; at Cheraw he captured twenty-five cannon and six hundred barrels of gunpowder, and at Fayetteville twenty pieces of artillery with much other war material. The officer who brought the letter to Gen. Grant reports that Kilpatrick's headquarters had been surprised by two brigades of Hampton's getting in his rear, who captured his whole staff; but Kilpatrick, escaping, rallied his men, drove the enemy with great loss, and recaptured nearly all he had lost. The public was prepared for this good news, but will rejoice none the less emphatically now that it comes in authentic shape. That faith that now believes in Lee and his strategy will remove mountains. Sherman's success is beyond a question, and the days of the Rebellion are numbered.

THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH.

We are not, it is known, among the idolaters, nor even the adulators, of Abraham Lincoln. He was not our first choice for President in 1860, nor yet in 1864. We are among those who hold that the rescue of our country from the grave perils which so lately shrouded her horizon will justly redound to the lasting honor of her Loyal Millions, not to that of any particular man, whether general or civilian. If Mr. Lincoln had never been born, or had never played a part in public affairs, the recent pages of our National History would have varied considerably in incident and detail from what is actually inscribed there, but the net result would have been nearly the same.

Mr. Lincoln touched the key-note of his career when, in a recent letter, he observed that he had not controlled events, but been controlled by them. Our great struggle has elicited no truer or more pertinent remark. His usefulness, his strength, his popularity, grow out of the fact that he accurately collects, apprehends, interprets, embodies, the average sentiment of the American People. His bark, firmly anchored on the rock of American nationality, swings to the ebb and flow of the popular tide. The very faults of his Presidential career—his hesitations, vacillations, errors—have faithfully reflected the passing phases of public sentiment. He is emphatically a Man of the People, not in that highest sense which indicates one who unfolds and quickens their better aspirations, but in the readier acceptance of one who speaks as they think and does as they desire to-day, though it may be inconsistent with what they thought yesterday and irreconcilable with what they will think to-morrow.

We believe it was quite possible to have selected a stronger man for President; yet that does not conflict with the fact that his death or permanent disability now would be a calamity—very generally and justly deplored. We cannot forecast the future which that bereavement would open; yet we think few Americans, even though disloyal, can wish to confront its realization.

But, if the President is to outlive the term on which he has just entered, a radical retrenchment must be promptly effected in the current exactions on his time and energies. He has been carried further toward the grave by his four years in the White House than he could have been by ten years of constant labor in the courts or on a farm. All who knew him in 1860 and have met him in 1865, must have observed his air of fatigue, exhaustion and languor—so different from his old hearty, careless, jovial manner. We are sure no good physician, who has seen him since last December, can have heard of his recent illness without feeling that this was what might and should have been expected.

For human strength is finite, and no man could endure the constant tension of his faculties imposed on President Lincoln without a more or less speedy break-down. Go when you will to the White House, from early morn until a late hour at night, and you find the antechamber filled with a crowd of eager solicitors of a special interview with the President. "Only five minutes," pleads one who may have come from Iowa for the purpose, and who thinks it very hard that the President cannot give him that minimum of attention when he has given so much of his time and energies to advance what he mistakenly considers that President's fortunes, not reflecting that even a five minutes interview with every one who should desire an audience would very soon place our Chief Magistrate beyond the scope of earthly aspiration. Let it be understood that the President would confer for even two minutes with every one who might fancy that he had occasion for an interview, and Mr. Lincoln could not remain above ground for even a month longer.

It being simply impossible that the President should grant an audience to every one who solicits it, we urge that decided steps should at once be taken in the premises. If his life is indeed worth saving, those steps cannot be taken a moment too soon. The post-office at Waupeville or the tidewater at Patchogue may be a matter of grave consequence to the people of that respected locality; but the life of the President happens at present to be of even greater consequence to the country in general; and this cannot be preserved if he is to receive deputations and listen to conflicting statements touching rival aspirants to said post-office or inspection. If it be determined that Mr. Lincoln's

life is of greater consequence than the rival interest in question, then that determination demands instant and resolute action in its support.

Few can have an adequate idea of the volumes of papers that go up to the President daily, demanding his consideration and action. Applications for civil office and for military promotion; remonstrances against the aforesaid; solicitations for cotton permits and other varieties of the unclean brood whereof these are the type; petitions for the pardon of spies and other convicted traitors; entreaties for the release of smugglers, blockade-runners, and sellers of goods to Rebels; protests against this act of alleged spoliation or tyranny by some military commandant; replications to such protests, &c., &c. Of course, mistakes would be made and injustice committed in acting in this mass of business under any circumstances; but how many more must inevitably be made when the President's time and powers are all absorbed by personal bores, and he must at the last moment sign right and left the documents prepared and laid before him, with but a very confused notion of what they are, and with no other knowledge of the facts on which they are based than that supplied by an indorsement affixed by some one who may be careless, or prejudiced, or bribed. The perils and evils of this slap-dash manner of doing business are most palpable.

Reform in the premises is sure to come; but it may come too late. It ought now to be settled, so as never hereafter to be unsettled, that the President can give but an hour or two per day to personal interviews with others than those in immediate official relations with him; and that this limited time must be allotted as he judges most conducive to the public weal. If he can assign two hours to such interviews, let him spend one of them in the East Room, conversing informally with all comers, and let the other be given in specified allotments to such as he may single out from the crowd thus collected. But we attach no weight to this suggestion, nor to any mere question of detail—the vital matter being that the President must be relieved, at once and forever, from the pressure of personal solicitations and interviews which now wastefully absorb his working hours and threaten to end prematurely his days.

SENATOR FOOTE'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF TENNESSEE.

We have received a pamphlet just published in London by Mr. Foote, recently Senator from Tennessee in the Rebel Congress at Richmond, and containing an account of his efforts to bring about peace. Mr. Foote's last speeches in the Rebel Congress and his subsequent escape from the Confederacy have attracted such general attention that his statements will be received with interest. The following is the substance of the pamphlet:

Mr. Foote begins with reminding his constituents that when they sent him to the Congress at Richmond, they were familiar with his former "devotion to the Federal Union" and his "zealous and unflinching opposition to everything in the shape of nationalism." They knew that he refused "all connection with the perilous scheme of secession in 1861," and that, in 1860, he had as little in common with the boasted secession leaders as any other public man in the South; that he had earnestly opposed all the incipient steps which had led to the fearful state of things then existing; that he had openly denounced the conduct and motives of nearly all the prominent leaders in the secession movement; and that he had never fully acquiesced in the propriety of entering into the war "until the Southern Senators and Representatives in the Federal Congress had, with a want of wisdom and true moral courage unprecedented in the world's history, ingloriously vacated their seats in that body, and (doubtless in accordance with a plan previously agreed upon among them) hastened to the city of Montgomery, framed a new Constitution of Government, and taken all the needful steps for the bringing on of a war, without the immediate commencement of which they well knew their scheme of disunion would turn out to be altogether impracticable."

In the Rebel Congress Mr. Foote claims to have always made "a firm and unyielding opposition to the shameful efforts of Mr. Davis and his servitors to undermine the public liberties and establish a despotism upon their ruins." "At length (three months ago) it became evident to every man of discernment" with whom Mr. Foote held intercourse, "that unless an early and an honorable peace could be speedily effected the South would be inevitably ruined."

Mr. Foote then, after freely consulting with the best and wisest men he met, resolved to introduce his well-known peace resolutions in the Rebel Congress. His resolutions were rejected by that body, he deemed it necessary to make another "somewhat unusual experiment" to bring about peace.

Seeing that "the Confederate Government, in all its departments, was most rapidly losing the public confidence and becoming positively odious," and that "the Confederate financial system was clearly in a state bordering upon collapse," Mr. Foote set out from Richmond about December 20, in company with his wife, who had a passport from the Richmond authorities empowering her to return to their residence in Nashville. On reaching the Potomac, in Westmoreland County, he addressed a letter to Thomas S. Bocock, Speaker of the Rebel House of Representatives, dated December 21, stating that he intended to visit the city of Washington "for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it is practicable to obtain for the people of the Confederate States an early and an honorable peace," and that this mission was "cordially sanctioned by some of the wisest and most virtuous men now upholding the Confederate cause." In a postscript to this letter Mr. Foote made known his resignation in Congress. Mr. Foote did not succeed in crossing the Potomac, but was arrested and carried to Fredericksburg, where he remained in military custody for nearly a week, when he was liberated on a writ of *habeas corpus*. He at once proceeded to Richmond and there made his last harangue "in that mobbish assemblage known as the Congress of the Confederate States," "before a large and evidently

approving audience." After that he at once resumed his original scheme of seeking access to the Washington authorities. This time he succeeded in reaching the headquarters of Gen. Devan at Lovettsville. There one of the staff of Gen. Sheridan called on him, and received from him a letter to Secretary Seward, dated Jan. 30, 1865. In this letter, Mr. Foote, after having again referred to his former opposition to secession movements, proceeds to say:

"I now have the honor to say, for myself and for a large number of the most weighty and influential Statesmen, that the South contains, and, as I have good reason to believe, in accordance with the wishes also of a very large majority of the Sovereign people of the Southern States, whether in or out of the Confederate armies, that we, the Conservatives of the South, are ready and anxious to enter once more into fraternal union with our fellow-citizens of the North; that we are resolved, if an opportunity of doing so honorably shall be afforded us, to withdraw at once from all political connection with the Government now located in the city of Richmond, and to place ourselves and all we hold dear once more under the protection of the flag of our fathers."

"No one knows better than I do that no such pacification as that which I now propose can ever come from Mr. Davis. His official position and his devotion to his own selfish schemes of individual aggrandizement alike forbid it. But let President Lincoln issue a formal Proclamation, addressed to the People of the Confederate States, offering to them complete Amnesty for the past, and a full restoration of the constitutional rights which they formerly enjoyed, and they will immediately hold Conventions in all of the said States and vote themselves back into the Federal Union, calling home their troops at once, and leaving Mr. Davis to enjoy, as he may be able to do, the despotism which he has established, together with such Foreign Protection for himself and his ignoble projects, as it shall be in his power to secure."

Mr. Foote thought that Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas would be sure to follow the example of Maryland and Missouri and abolish Slavery, and therefore it would be safe to leave Slavery where the Federal Constitution left it; but if circumstances should exist which would render such a plan impossible, he was prepared to say in behalf of those whom he represented, that they will agree to such a change of the Federal Constitution as will secure the entire extinction of Slavery on the 1st day of January, 1900, and which will provide also for the freedom of all persons of African blood who shall be born after the 1st day of January, 1890.

Mr. Foote also declared that he stood ready: "To make such further revelations, both as to facts and as to motives, as will leave no doubt upon the minds of President Lincoln and his Constitutional advisers that ample facilities exist for the bringing about, in the short period of forty days too, such a counter-revolution as will restore to the South all the rights which it is now deprived of, and that the information which I deem it proper, for reasons alike of prudence and of honor, to hold for the present as secret, if imparted, will conduce to the restoration of peace and the reestablishment of the Federal Union, in a manner and upon terms consistent with the present honor and future safety of the South, and I will at once proceed to make full disclosures."

Mr. Seward acknowledged the receipt of this communication, and stated that any further communication which Mr. Foote might think it proper to impart to the Government might be communicated in the same manner as the first. Major-Gen. Sheridan was directed either to pass Mr. Foote back within the insurgent lines, if he so chose, or to send him to Major-Gen. Dix, who would be instructed to allow him to pass beyond the jurisdiction of the United States. Mr. Foote chose the latter course. From New-York he addressed a second letter to Mr. Seward, dated Feb. 6, 1865, reiterating his former sentiments and statements, and especially emphasizing his readiness to establish the fact by testimony of the most trustworthy "character, that a large majority of the more enlightened citizens of the South have at last come to the conclusion, in which I confess that I do for one most fully concur, that should they be ever so successful in the prosecution of the war now in progress, they would find themselves at the end of it an enslaved and wretched people, and that Southern independence, at one time so thoughtlessly coveted and so zealously striven for, would be, if attained, precisely the most deplorable calamity which could possibly befall them."

Mr. Foote did not wait for a reply to this communication, but at once engaged a passage to Liverpool. On board the steamship he was informed that his second communication had been placed in the hands of President Lincoln for consideration, but having no special reason for supposing that it had been more favorably received than the former, he set sail. On board the mail steamer he wrote another letter to President Lincoln, urging a modification of the resolution then before the Congress at Washington for abolishing Slavery by a constitutional amendment, and expressing the belief that the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine would be a means of cordial reconciliation.

In conclusion Mr. Foote entreats his countrymen, "whatever may be the action of President Lincoln upon the propositions submitted to him," "to lose no time in returning to the bosom of the Federal Union."

THE PROGRESS OF RUSSIA.

The year 1864 will count in the annals of Russia among those most marked for military successes as well as administrative reforms. Two great and expensive wars were brought to a successful close in Poland and Circassia. The triumph over the Circassians annexes to Russia a large region in Asia, which will henceforth not only remain subject to Russian rule, but fill up with a Russian population; while the victory over the Poles secures the influence of Russia over those western provinces in which hitherto that of the Polish nobility, who owned most of the land, has been all-powerful. Russia has availed herself of a very favorable opportunity to turn to her own advantage the principle of nationality, and endeavors to widen in these provinces the antagonism existing between the Polish nobles and the peasantry, belonging to a different Slavic race, and to secure the sympathies of the latter. It can hardly be doubted that these efforts, which have been accompanied by the great boon of emancipation, will soon be crowned with complete success. In the same manner, the restoration of the Finnish language in the Grand Duchy of Finland, and the suppression of the Swedish language, is encouraged by the government, and is making rapid progress. Finally, an important advance has been made in Central Asia, which points to a speedy enlargement of the frontiers of the empire as far

as British India. Last year, the state of Khokand, in a part of Turkistan, comprising a territory about three times the extent of Great Britain, was annexed to Russia; and we now learn that the Russian Government has annexed the entire territory lying between the sea of Aral and the Yeshil-kul Lake as Russian provinces, under the name of Russian Turkistan. Yeshil-kul is a lake of Chinese Turkistan, situated only a short distance from British India. If it now forms, as the dispatch from Russia announces, the southern frontier of the Russian dominions in Asia, it indicates that Russia has already absorbed, not only the larger portion of Independent, but also of Chinese Turkistan, and that she has approached much nearer to the frontier of British India than appeared from the last reports of the English press.

Even more important for the future of the empire, than this consolidation and extension of the Russian nationality, are the administrative reforms. The effects of emancipation are becoming more and more apparent in every province of the empire. The same boon of freedom which had been granted to the Russian peasants in 1861 was conferred upon those of Poland in February, 1864. Sweeping reforms were introduced into the military organization and the administration of justice. The foundation was laid of an iron-clad navy. The important telegraph through Siberia, which is to establish communication between Europe, America and Asia, is nearing its completion. A popular loan was negotiated to construct a railroad connecting Moscow with the Black Sea. Public instruction in the state colleges (gymnasias) was entirely reorganized, and great efforts are making to place them on a level with the same institutions in the most advanced countries of Europe.

But the most important and far-reaching of all these reforms is the provision for the introduction of elective representative assemblies in the provinces. The inauguration of these assemblies will be the most marked feature in the history of Russia during 1865. In several provinces, the elections for the Provincial Diets have been completed, and the first of them is to assemble in the course of the month of March. These Diets are to pave the way for the introduction of a National Representative Assembly.

Considerable surprise was recently produced by a resolution, adopted in the meeting of the nobility of Moscow, by 270 votes against 37, to petition the Emperor for a convocation of a National Representative Assembly, representing all classes of the population. The petition was not well received in Petersburg, for immediately upon learning of its adoption the Government hastened to close the session of the nobility. This act of the Government is, however, not understood as indicating any opposition to the plan of National Representation, but the nobility of Moscow, on the contrary, are suspected of having passed the resolution merely from the desire of having any further reforms in the empire made dependent upon their consent, and of thus arresting, so far as possible, any further curtailment of their prerogatives.

The discussion of these projects in the meanwhile adds to the political fermentation, and cannot fail to aid in the enlightenment and education of the mass of the people.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The election on Tuesday relative to the Constitutional Amendment providing for the appointment of five Commissioners of Appeals to hear and decide causes now pending in the Court of Appeals excited very little interest, and the vote was very light throughout the State. Few returns have yet reached us, and the question of the success or failure of the measure is not conclusively decided, though the Amendment is presumed to be carried. We append the majorities, so far as reported:

For Amendment.	Against Amendment.
New-York.....1,089	Greenwich.....118
Brooklyn.....1,132	Oxford.....42
Poughkeepsie.....261	Schenectady.....130
Utica.....62	Troy.....241
Rhinecland.....340	Westkill.....19
Saratoga.....24	Benewick (1st dist.).....162
Rochester (12 wards).....22	Cohoes.....5
Lockport.....201	Springfield (2d dist.).....19
Greenbush.....29	Nagara Falls.....56
Kirkland.....29	Ridgely.....229
Norwich.....11	Elma.....137
Port Leyden.....29	Booneville.....34
Riverhead.....27	Total.....2,243
Southampton.....27	
East Hampton.....50	For Amendment.....3,601
Greenport.....20	Against it.....2,243
Buffalo (13 dists.).....270	
New-Creicht.....43	Total.....3,601
Total.....3,601	Majority for.....1,358

The Albany Evening Journal has recently been strengthened by the accession of Mr. George W. Demers, late Deputy Secretary of State, to its Editorial corps. Mr. Demers is a young man of rare ability, eminent personal worth, and the very soundest politics. We predict for *The Journal* an increase in circulation, popularity and usefulness.

The Boston Post indulges in the following ghastly grin over the New-Hampshire returns: "Mr. Smyth is elected Governor by three or four thousand majority more than he expected to receive, and the Legislature will be as full of Republicans as an oil well of petroleum."

We suspect that a good many heavy speculators in oil stocks would pay something handsome to have that simile proved a correct one.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 16, 1865.

EXPRESS COMPANIES AND RECEIPT STAMPS.
 Judge Lewis having had his attention called to the fact that express companies have ceased stamping receipts, gives notice that the act of March 3, exempting such tax, does not take effect until April 1, and all cases of evasion are ordered to be prosecuted.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

The town was thrown into a broad grin over The Tribune's announcement of the tender of the French Mission to James Gordon Bennett. By many it is viewed as an absurdity, while others claim to have positive knowledge of its having been tendered more than three years ago. It is interpreted as a diplomatic mortgage upon *The Herald*, subject to contingent foreclosure four years hence.

GLOWING PROSPECTS.

Representative Washburne returned to-day from City Point. He gives a glowing representation of

the success of military operations and everything connected with our Armies.

GEN. GRANT AND TRADE PERMITS.

Gen. Grant, by and with the consent and approbation of President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, has revoked and suspended all trade permits, by whomsoever given, whereby cotton and tobacco were brought out, and bacon, breadstuffs and general supplies carried into the Rebel lines for the support of Lee's famishing soldiers.

THE OFFICE-SEEKERS.

The Republican makes an earnest appeal to the holder of office-seekers who throng the White House during all the hours of daylight and evening, to desist their indecent intrusion, avowing, "the health of the President cannot endure such a continuous and venacious shock."

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 15, 1865.

Count Wydenbrake has been presented to the President as the Minister resident from Austria.

Mr. L. M. Clark has not resigned the charge of the non-printing bureau in the Department, and the sturdy party desiring to serve the country in that sphere are sorely disappointed.

The public impression as reported at Washington by letter and by visitors having business with the departments, is that Mr. McCulloch is determined to secure for Government of the Trust States, at home and abroad, the high credit to which is entitled, that he will tolerate no longer the mischievous and wasteful difference between gold and the national promises, which unparitric men all over the country have by combination artificially created, that as he knows that the resources of this country are not equalled anywhere on this earth, and that while he applies to economy and caution of a financier trained in a severe school of practical banking, and in which he has acquired established a reputation for conservatism, he will stand resolutely upon the strength of the nation, and lean his Department upon the people.

This public impression of Mr. McCulloch's character and of his purpose of administering the Treasury as accepted in Washington as correct, and no doubt is felt here that the public will heartily sustain him. It is known that the Secretary has determined to put down the price of gold to its just relations to paper, but not to do this in haste, indeed, he is to take a course that will be of great benefit to the public. The Treasury shows that for some time past the daily receipts of gold for customs duties have averaged \$325,000 per day. This would give for the year, in round numbers, \$119,000,000. The allowance of interest on the public debt payable in gold is but \$60,000,000. From the single source of supply of the customs alone the means to meet the gold-bearing obligations of the Government are a half greater than its requirements.

Henry Wilkes, late of the *Washington Herald*, William Smith and Richard Hamilton, men who distinguished themselves in the capture of the Rebel Gen. Albemarle, have been severely been presented medals of honor by the Navy Department, each medal being accompanied by a certificate from the Secretary, commending the gallantry of the recipient.

FROM SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA.

The Prison Nearly Empty—Southern Union Men Detained.

Mr. John P. Hurley, recently a citizen prisoner at Salisbury, North Carolina, arrived in this city yesterday morning. He left Salisbury on the 30th of February, had a long and tedious journey to Wilmington, and was delivered to our authorities in exchange on the 21st inst.

At the time of his departure from Salisbury, no Northern prisoners whatever remained there, except about 100 black soldiers, who were too feeble to be removed. All the other sick were transported to Richmond some days before and are expected to reach our lines by an early flag of truce via James River.

The other prisoners of war were being marched toward the coast, and will be exchanged near Wilmington. All the Northern citizens, many of whom had been confined for two years, came through with Mr. Hurley, except eight or ten, who went to Richmond as nurses with the sick, and are thus delayed in reaching home. Mr. James P. Crane, a conductor on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, is still detained in Salisbury as a special hostage.

All the Southern Union men who have been held in Salisbury are still kept there. They number nearly 100. Some of them have been in confinement for three years. The Rebel authorities are very reluctant to part with them, but if Gen. Milford or Secretary Stanton had insisted on it with sufficient earnestness their release could doubtless have been secured. No class of prisoners have stronger claims upon our Government than these Southern Loyalists. They are nearly all poor. Their families, living or they border are harried and persecuted by the enemy; their houses plundered and often burned, and themselves subjected to this long, hopeless confinement, only because they have kept the faith and remained loyal to their country. There are persons in the North who have shown earnestness, persevering, self-sacrificing patriotism. It will be a shame if our Government continues to neglect them.

Major Gre, the old commandant, is still at the head of the Salisbury garrison, and the same atrocities which were perpetrated during the stay of our correspondents there, were still continued as long as any prisoners of war remained. Dr. Richard O. Curry, the chief surgeon of the post, died a few weeks ago. He was an exile from Knoxville, Tenn., and though a thorough Rebel, always made every effort in his power to secure humane treatment and the common comforts of life for the sick; and denounced in fitting terms the cold-blooded barbarity of the Richmond and Salisbury authorities, in starving, freezing and shooting prisoners.

When Mr. Hurley and his companions arrived at Annapolis (of course ragged and penniless) they found no preparations for receiving and forwarding them; and it was only through the great labor and attention of the Sanitary Commission, that they were able to obtain food, shelter and transportation to their homes.

Mr. Hurley is a resident of Virginia, but succeeded in securing his release by representing himself as a citizen of Manchester, N. H.—a very salacious and profitable little romance on his part.

The New-York Semi-Weekly Tribune.

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